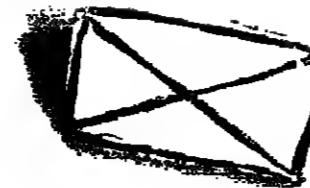


Vorontsov: Moscow wants peace

MOSCOW (R) — Moscow's new ambassador in Kabul said Sunday the Soviet Union would spare no effort to bring peace to Afghanistan where a Kremlin-backed government has fought rebels for nine years. In remarks to Afghan President Najibullah while presenting his credentials, Yuri Vorontsov also said Moscow would continue economic aid to Kabul, TASS news agency reported from the Afghan capital. "The Soviet ambassador assured the Afghan leader that he would spare no effort in the cause of further strengthening friendship, good neighbourliness and cooperation between the two countries, restoring peace and calm on the soil of Afghanistan," TASS said. "The USSR will continue to render aid to Afghanistan in the social-economic sphere and assist achieving its peace-loving foreign policy goals," he said. Vorontsov, a Soviet first deputy foreign minister considered close to the Kremlin leadership, arrived in the Afghan capital Saturday to take up his new post. He told Najibullah that Moscow "fully supported the line of the Afghan leadership for national reconciliation" with the Afghan rebels, TASS said. Najibullah replied his government was willing to start talks with all participants in the war, but indicated he was not willing to swap territory for peace.



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AROUND THE WORLD...

Abu Sharif: PNC to meet in October

RIYADH (R) — A senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official was quoted Sunday as saying the Palestine National Council (PNC), expected to declare an independent state, would meet at the end of the month. The Saudi newspaper Okaz quoted Bassam Abu Sharif as saying PNC would meet Oct. 31 or Nov. 1 — the day Israel is to hold elections. Abu Sharif, a senior adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, told Okaz that Moscow had not asked the PLO to postpone the PNC meeting.

Turkey wants EEC entry by 1992

BONN (R) — Turkish President Kenan Evren said Sunday he wanted his country to be allowed into the European Economic Community (EEC) by 1992 at the latest, the year when trade barriers within the bloc are due to be lifted. In an interview with the West German newspaper Die Welt, released at the start of a six-day state visit to Bonn, Evren also said Turkey's 10-million strong Kurdish minority should be satisfied with the same rights as other citizens. Evren is due to meet Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher for talks which are expected to include discussion of the nearly 1.5 million Turkish workers in West Germany.

Sumgait violence trial at supreme court

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet supreme court plans this week to hear for the first time a case related to ethnic violence between Armenians and Azerbaijanis, a court official said Sunday. The official said the trial would open Tuesday but he could give no details. It will be the first trial before the nation's highest court related to the clashes in the Azerbaijani town of Sumgait last February in which 32 people died in ethnic blood-letting between minority Armenians and majority Azerbaijanis.

SPLA claims taking military outpost

NAIROBI (R) — Rebels in southern Sudan said Sunday they captured the military outpost of Poge, near the Ugandan frontier, killing several soldiers and militiamen. Radio SPLA, the voice of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army, said the outpost fell to rebel forces two weeks ago. The broadcast said local militia commander Atansio Lalup was among those killed. Two soldiers were captured, it added.

Radicals demand Jayewardene resign

COLOMBO (AP) — Sinhalese radicals opposing the government's peace overtures to Tamil rebels Sunday threatened to disrupt December elections unless President J. R. Jayewardene resigns. The demand was one of seven made by the extremist People's Liberation Front. It called for the repeal of the provincial system of government that gives political and administrative autonomy to the minority Tamils in the northeastern province. Other demands included the dissolution of parliament, the appointment of a caretaker government, disbandment of all private militia armed by the government and an end to the emergency rule imposed in May 1983. It also wants the government to allow all groups, including militants, to participate in future elections.

U.N. forces block Greek Cypriots

ASTROMERITIS, Cyprus (AP) — Thousands of Greek Cypriot refugees were blocked by United Nations peacekeeping troops Sunday from returning to their former homes in Turkish-occupied north Cyprus. Many, including white-haired grandmothers and little children, managed to brush aside successive lines of peacekeepers and barbed-wire barricades to push into the buffer zone splitting the war-divided island. None reached the Turkish lines. Troops of the British contingent of U.N. troops that patrol the zone chased them through orange groves and open fields, rounding them up and marching or carrying them bodily back.

Bhutto unconcerned at rival alliance

KARACHI (R) — Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto said Sunday she was not concerned that her main rivals had joined forces to fight her in next month's elections. "We are not afraid of anyone," the 35-year-old opposition leader told reporters. "We will certainly win the elections." The two quarrelling factions of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League (PML) said Friday they had buried their differences and reunited under former Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo. Each faction had formed an alliance with other parties and talks were held Sunday to see whether they could all be accommodated in one large anti-Bhutto electoral pact.

40 Afghan rebel casualties reported

MOSCOW (AP) — Forty rebels were killed or wounded in clashes with government troops in southern Afghanistan, and Kabul filed its 100th protest alleging true violations by Pakistan, TASS said Sunday. Three other armed insurgents were taken prisoner during the Saturday fighting in Kandahar province, near the Pakistan border, the news agency said in a dispatch from Kabul. TASS also quoted Afghanistan's official Bakhtar news agency as reporting a shootout between rebel factions over booty in Laghman province near Kabul. The Afghan Foreign Ministry sent its note of protest to the U.N. observers monitoring the U.N.-brokered agreement designed to stop the fighting in Afghanistan, TASS said.

Pope John Paul marks 10th anniversary

VATICAN CITY (R) — Thousands of Poles converged on Rome Sunday to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the election of Pope John Paul as the first Polish pontiff in history. Dozens of red and white Polish flags and several banners of the outlawed Solidarity union fluttered in the warm breeze at a sunlit open-air mass outside St. Peter's Basilica during which the Pope beatified a 19th century Polish monk.

Djibouti president ends Iraq visit

BAGHDAD (AP) — President Hassan Gouled of Djibouti concluded an official visit to Iraq aimed at boosting bilateral relations, Baghdad Radio reported Sunday. The radio said Gouled held a round of talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein which dealt with "close bilateral relations and the situation in the region." Gouled arrived early in the day accompanied by Foreign Minister Ma'moun Bahdoum and other high-ranking officials. The radio said the two leaders discussed the Gulf war, Islamic issues and the results of the recent meeting of the information ministers of Islamic countries held in Saudi Arabia.

Shamir contacts Ethiopia on Jewish emigration

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has held contacts with Ethiopian authorities in an attempt to spur more Jewish emigration to Israel, army radio reported Sunday. Shamir revealed the contacts during an election campaign tour Saturday night, the radio reported. Yossi Abimeir, Shamir's spokesman, confirmed in a telephone interview that Shamir said he was holding contacts with the Ethiopian government.

Pledges austerity measures on government

Rifai urges public participation in economic effort

By Salameh B. Ne'mait
Jordan Times Economics Correspondent

AMMAN — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Sunday called on citizens to participate in a "collective national effort" to help the Kingdom out of its present economic difficulties and pledged that the government would implement austerity measures on itself to set an example for the private sector.

"There is a waste in our use of foreign currencies," Rifai said in a television interview with two leading economics columnists.

"The situation requires a national effort and not a mere government decision if we want to protect our economic achievement," he said, adding that "the government will begin to implement these policies on itself."

The prime minister said that recent economic, financial and monetary measures adopted by the government were aimed at dealing with the budget deficit and the deficit in the balance of payments, which he described as

"one of our biggest problems."

Rifai said that the government's decision to introduce flexibility to the Jordan dinar's exchange rate was designed to achieve an economic adjustment, he said.

Rifai said the step could result in a devaluation of the dinar against foreign currencies, and that "in the event of that happening, we expect gains to the country and the economic situation in general."

"The decline in the dinar's exchange rate against (foreign currencies) is not necessarily a negative thing," he explained.

"In fact, the positives are much more than the negatives."

He said a devaluation would squeeze imports and increase exports and boost import substitution in addition to enhancing productivity in the various sectors.

This, he added, "does not mean that there are no negative effects. Every economic, financial or monetary decision has its negative and positive effects. The important thing is that the positive effects are more than the negative ones."

(Continued on page 5)

Israel charges Islamic leader with calling 'illegal assembly'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli occupation authorities Sunday charged a senior Muslim clergymen with calling an "illegal assembly" in July that erupted into a clash with Israeli soldiers in occupied Jerusalem.

In Israel, a Palestinian collaborator fatally shot two sons of his landlord aged 13 and 17 and critically wounded their 38-year-old mother after the family ordered him to leave a rented flat in a village bordering on the West Bank, two residents said.

The latest casualty, 18-year-old Osama Wasel Shalabi, died at Jerusalem's Hadassah hospital. Troops shot him in the head during a clash last Monday in Al Til village in the West Bank.

Sheikh Jamal Al Rifai, deputy mufti of Jerusalem, was charged Sunday calling over a loudspeaker for Arab action against Israeli excavations which threatened the

sanctity of Al Aqsa Mosque.

Police fired tear-gas and rubber bullets to disperse protesters in the ensuing clash, injuring at least 20 Palestinians and arresting seven.

In Israel, a Palestinian collaborator fatally shot two sons of his landlord aged 13 and 17 and critically wounded their 38-year-old mother after the family ordered him to leave a rented flat in a village bordering on the West Bank, two residents said.

Police spokeswoman Yehudit Efroni confirmed the casualties. She described the assailant as a policeman originally from a West Bank village near Nablus and said he shot the victims Saturday night during a rent dispute with the landlord. She declined to elaborate.

Soldiers erected roadblocks throughout the occupied West Bank Sunday to prevent dozens of Jewish settlers from choking major traffic arteries as a protest against the Palestinian uprising, the army said.

Asked whether he was prepared to talk to the PLO if it recognised Israel and renounced violence, he replied: "I admit this is a highly hypothetical question."

Pressed to make a clearer statement, he said: "I don't think I have a clear question. Why should I refer to a situation that does not exist?"

At another point, Peres accused the PLO of backing away from a decision to recognise Israel.

"I am ready to make concessions for peace but I'm not ready to bend to violence... the PLO first has to show that they are capable of making a choice," he said.

Asked whether he was prepared to talk to the PLO if it recognised Israel and renounced violence, he replied: "I admit this is a highly hypothetical question."

But clear differences emerged over how enthusiastic the community's response should be to the independent state which the Palestine National Council (PNC) is expected to declare later this month.

The community has called for the PLO to be associated with Middle East peace talks but many EEC governments refuse to deal with Arafat until the PLO renounces the use of violence and recognises Israel.

Greece enjoys much warmer relations with the PLO and Papoulias, who met Arafat during his visit to the European parliament in Strasbourg last

Peres pledges peace conference

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres pledged Sunday that an international Middle East peace conference would be his first priority if his Labour Party wins the Nov. 1 general elections.

But he evaded questions about whether he would talk to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) or allow free elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Addressing a foreign press association lunch, Peres reaffirmed his support for U.S. proposal, opposed by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud bloc, for a peace conference to open talks between Israel and the Arabs.

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Greece enjoys much warmer relations with the PLO and Papoulias, who met Arafat during his visit to the European parliament in Strasbourg last

month, told the news conference the questions of an invitation to Arafat remained open.

"Mt. Arafat showed in Strasbourg that he is a credible interlocutor, I don't see how he can be rejected as an interlocutor."

"I believe very rapid developments which depend on the U.S. and Israeli elections as well as on the meeting of the PNC will open the doors for an invitation to Mr. Arafat," he added.

Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernández Ordóñez, who also favours the idea, told reporters there were very great differences over an invitation to Arafat. "Now is not suitable time," he added.

Papoulias said in his "personal view" the EEC nations might change their attitude towards Arafat after the PNC meeting and the U.S. presidential elections.

But a British diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, said British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe feels "this is not the right time" for the EEC to meet Arafat. First, he said, "Arafat and the PLO must commit themselves to the existence of Israel."

Giulio Andreotti, the Italian minister, said the best the EEC could do was to consider giving fresh impetus to the idea of an international peace conference after the U.S. elections.

Goulding: Iran visit fruitful

NICOSIA (AP) — Marrack Goulding, assistant secretary-general of the United Nations, was quoted Sunday as saying U.N. observers along the Iran-Iraq border had checked "minor" violations of the Gulf war ceasefire. The official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said Goulding spoke at a news conference in Tehran after touring western provinces to inspect the U.N. observers. It quoted him as saying the observers have been "largely successful in checking minor violations by convincing both sides to abide by the ceasefire." But he stressed that the mandate of the 350-strong United Nations Iran-Iraq Observer Group (UNIIMOG) was testifies to monitoring and reporting developments along the 1,180-kilometre war front. "They are not military forces to carry out military operations," IRNA quoted Goulding as saying. He said he hoped that Iran and Iraq would have reached a comprehensive settlement of their dispute by February, when the observers' six-month mandate expires. Otherwise, he said, their mission will be extended. Goulding flew to Iran Wednesday after a visit to Iraq, where he also inspected U.N. observers stationed on the Iraqi side of the border.



King receives Iraqi chief of staff

His Majesty King Hussein Sunday received visiting Iraqi Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Nizar Abdul Karim Faisal, who conveyed to him greetings and best wishes of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. The audience (photo above) was attended by Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, the

King's Private Chamberlain His Royal Highness Prince Ali Ibn Nayef, Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleh and the Iraqi ambassador to Jordan. Earlier Sunday, the Iraqi chief of staff toured a number of military sites in Jordan.

Hoss appeals for urgent Arab action to settle Lebanese crisis

ABU DHABI (Agencies) —

Lebanon's acting Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss was quoted Sunday as saying his country's crisis would escalate like the Palestinian problem unless the Arab World took urgent action.

"I think we have the right to look forward to an Arab initiative that matches the extent of the danger besetting Lebanon," the Abu Dhabi newspaper Al Ittihad quoted Hoss as saying.

"I think if our Arab brothers do not hasten to counter this conspiracy, then they should prepare for a new crisis similar to that of Palestine," he told the paper.

Hoss heads one of two rival governments vying for power in Lebanon.

The other, appointed by outgoing President Amin Gemayel when his term ended last month without a successor having been chosen, is led by army commander Michel Aoun.

Hoss said the appointment of the Aoun administration threatened Lebanon with final partition.

In a separate interview in the paper Sunday, Walid Junblatt, head of Lebanon's Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), said he would fight any rightist attempt to set up a new state.

Lebanon's senior Christian cleric, trying to mediate a solution to the political crisis, appealed Sunday for Lebanese to have faith in their battered country.

"Salvation is inevitable once we renew our faith in Lebanon," Patriarch Nasrallah Boutros Steir told worshippers at mass.

"Lebanon is suffering... they (rival parties) are trying to tear its limbs apart, yet it is still fighting, resisting and defending itself."

"Lebanon has almost bled to death... those knifing it from within and from abroad are numerous," Steir said.

Nabil Berri, leader of Lebanon's largest Amal militia, was quoted Sunday as saying the crisis could only be overcome if Muslims were given equal political rights with Christians.

"We don't want more wars than those we have had because they will lead us nowhere. We should have one government that will prepare for a quick election, otherwise I see a black future," Berri told the independent Al Diyar newspaper.

"I am ready to make concessions for peace but I'm not ready to bend to violence... the PLO first has to show that they are capable of making a choice," he said.

Asked whether he was prepared to talk to the PLO if it recognises Israel and renounces violence, he replied: "I admit this is a highly



A truck carrying Palestinian produce crosses from the occupied West Bank to Jordan. Despite the break in legal and administrative links with the West Bank, Jordan continues to allow Palestinian exports to

the Kingdom and allow the produce free access to the Jordanian market (J.T. file photo)

Steady steps to disengagement

AMMAN — Jordan, while remaining firmly committed to supporting the steadfastness of the Palestinian people and to playing a key role in efforts for just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, is steadily pursuing implementation of measures designed to reinforce the Palestinian identity of the Israeli-occupied territories in the wake of the Kingdom's decision to sever formal ties with the West Bank.

Dr. Ahmad Qatanani, director-general of the newly-created Department of Palestinian Affairs — formerly the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs — explains the entire process in a nutshell: "Jordan remains committed to supporting the steadfastness of the people in the occupied territories (and) to an active role in the process that will eventually, we hope, lead to a comprehensive peace. So, under these two titles, we still continue to operate in the occupied territories..."

While the department's activities essentially "remain the same that were taking place" before Jordan's July 31 announcement of severance of formal links with the West Bank, "it is now in a fully new direction... to give the disengagement its meaning..." according to Qatanani.

A wide-ranging one-hour interview with the Jordan Times earlier this week, Qatanani spoke at length about the functions of the department, which is now part of the Foreign Ministry, since July 31 and emphasised that these were all part of the ongoing process of "translating the disengagement into practice."

Qatanani reaffirmed the government's keen interest in upgrading the services offered to and the living conditions of

Palestinian refugees and displaced persons living in the East Bank. "The disengagement measure has changed nothing with regard to the refugees and displaced persons living here in Jordan," he said.

Jordan spends about \$12 million every year on the camps in addition to continued coordination with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) and donor countries on matters related to services offered to the camps, Qatanani said. "We help (the camp residents) establish certain projects that will make life easier for the people," he said. "We establish electricity network, water projects, clinics, schools, roads and so on... the kind of infrastructure that will provide services needed by the people in the camps."

Recalling a visit last month by Interior Minister Rajai Dajani to several camps Amman and his promise to upgrade services offered to them, Qatanani said: "Some camps have come very near to cities (in proximity). As a matter of fact, they have come within the city limits. The government has been all along interested in seeing to that the people who live in the camps get services that will allow them to have a decent living and not to have a great gap between the people in the camps and outside the camps in the surrounding areas."

"It is particularly so," he said, "in areas where the camps are very near to the cities."

Status of camps not changed

With the government's own \$12 million budget and working

closely with UNRWA and donor countries, "we are trying to improve these services as much as we can," he said.

But, he stressed, "this will not change the (status) of the camps, but will improve the services. This is what we have been doing and will continue to do so."

According to UNRWA statistics, the number of refugees and displaced persons living in the camps is about 250,000. But Qatanani said this could vary to up to 300,000 since "there are people who move in and out in terms of renting or leasing."

Asked what the drawing line was between "refugees" and "displaced persons," Qatanani said: "Refugees are those who left the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel in 1948 and these are registered with UNRWA as refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, in Gaza. Displaced persons are those who left the West Bank and Gaza Strip following the 1967 war."

Jordan erected six emergency camps in the East Bank for displaced persons but some of the displaced persons actually came from the Palestinian refugee camps in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. "So they're both refugees and displaced persons... like people from 'Ain Sultan in Jericho or Jalazoun near Ramallah moving to Beqaa camp near Amman," Qatanani said.

However, there are no distinctions between "refugees" and "displaced persons" when it comes to their civil status in Jordan. "The displaced persons and refugees in the West Bank and the East Bank have been treated as Jordanians since 1950, and there was no difference," Qatanani said.

"The only difference came after (Jordan's) legal and adminis-

trative) disengagement (from the West Bank). Now, those who live in the West Bank get temporary two-year passports while those in the East Bank get regular five-year passports. The people who came from Gaza were different in the sense that they started getting temporary passports only recently. A resolution was passed in 1985 allowing them to get temporary passports. The disengagement measure has made the people of the occupied territories Palestinian as of the day of the disengagement."

Continued issuance of passports is only one of many facilities that Jordan continues to extend to the Palestinian people despite the break with the West Bank. "We still welcome people from the occupied territories," Qatanani said. "They can visit (the

West Bank) and stay for one month. Those who need to stay more than one month — for education, medical treatment or humanitarian reasons — are allowed to stay on as their needs warrant."

Outlining further the work of the department, the director-general said: "We continue to issue the necessary documents for people in the occupied territories... death, birth and marriage certificates, land deeds, school certificates etc. We help them whenever possible.... We still admit students from the occupied territories into our schools, colleges and universities."

"In effect, in many aspects, (the department's) activities remain pretty much the same... but with regard to the issue itself, the disengagement was intended to start with the pronouncement of the Palestinian identity and clarifying the matter of representation."

Imports from West Bank

Jordan continues to import agricultural and industrial products from the West Bank and extend them free access to the Jordanian market, Qatanani noted. This helps the people in the occupied territories in addition to meeting local demands, he said. The new element is the process, he pointed out, is the involvement of the Ministries of Industry and Trade, Supply, Finance and Customs, the Ministry of Agriculture and various other departments, organisations and institutions that are concerned with the import of products to decide on what kind of procedures are to be followed.

Qatanani said Jordan welcome a recent Israeli consent to allow direct Palestinian exports to European markets. "We have always been trying, all along, to push this kind of (step)... We have been advising the people in the cooperative unions in the occupied territories to try hard for such an agreement..."

He noted that the European Economic Community (EEC) had withheld approval of three

protocols with Israel because of the Zionist state's resistance to direct Palestinian exports to the EEC. The protocols were approved earlier this week after Israel undertook to allow direct access to EEC markets by Palestinian producers from the West Bank and Gaza.

Replying to a question, Qatanani said the authorities were strictly enforcing Jordan's ban on entry of any product with Israeli input, whether labour or material-wise. The authorities are in coordination with cooperative societies and unions in the West Bank and the benevolent society in Gaza to ensure the ban is not violated.

In essence, every product that enters the East Bank from the other side of the river has to be accompanied by a certificate of origin issued by any of these societies or unions as the case maybe.

Qatanani noted that origins were relatively easy to trace in the case of agricultural products — the bulk of Palestinian exports

to the East Bank. "They are planted in Palestinian lands by Palestinian farmers and are easy to trace," he said. But in the case of industrial products the inspection process is different. "When the final product has any Israeli input, we reject it," he said. "It will not be admitted."

The regulations are strictly followed, he said, to the extent that a Palestinian product packed in Israeli material will not be allowed into Jordan.

The main agricultural products that enter the East Bank from the West Bank are citrus, fruits, vegetables, water melons, olives and olive oil. The industrial product category includes stones, woodwork, soap and meat products. The department did not have specific figures on the actual value of imports from the occupied territories but in tonnage they amounted to 69,635 tonnes from the West Bank and 61,603 tonnes from the Gaza Strip in 1987.

These products enjoy free access to the Jordanian market and are treated at par with the Kingdom's produce, Qatanani said.

Vehicle licensing

In reply to a question on a recent measure concerning trucks entering from the West Bank, Qatanani said: "These trucks were Jordanian and now they are Palestinian. So their owners will have to change their licences into a temporary one (while entering Jordan). Again, the idea is part of translating the disengagement into practice."

He estimated that there were over 300 such vehicles, which carried Jordanian licences since 1967 and operated in the occupied territories with Israeli plates, as imposed on them by the occupation authorities. Whenever they crossed into the East Bank, they used the Jordanian plates until the new decision, announced earlier this month.

Replies to another question

on what has been described as a "new good conduct certificate" that West Bank drivers have to obtain before obtaining such temporary licences as well as driving licences, Qatanani said: "The drivers who were driving these trucks will have no problem to come to Jordan. The matter related to good conduct certificate is something we have been using for a long time. After all, we cannot admit anybody who is collaborating with the enemy, whether a driver, a lawyer or whoever."

Qatanani disclosed that a recent meeting was held at the Interior Ministry to "make clear the new procedures related to the disengagement to everybody concerned, every department." The meeting was attended by officials from the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, the Ministry of Interior, Islamic Justice Department, the Department of Palestinian Affairs and the Passports Department. "The main aim was to see to it that the procedures are clear to everybody and to make things clear to the people (in the occupied territories) so that they know what documents to carry when they come the East Bank," Qatanani said. "The meeting also reviewed all the difficulties in the actual implementation of the procedures and how to sort out problems."

Qatanani also explained the issuance of cards to Palestinians entering Jordan. "If they are permanent residents of the West Bank, they will get a green card... which entitled them to get temporary two-year passports," he said. "Those who have their residence in the East Bank and have obtained family reunion documents — which means that they can reside permanently in the West Bank if they wish to — are issued yellow cards. (It) means that those carrying a green card are Palestinian. Those who carry yellow cards are Jordanian and nothing has changed for them with regard to the passport they get when they apply for it."



Dr. Ahmad Qatanani

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

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PROGRAMME ONE
15:30 ... Koran
15:35 ... Programme review
15:35 ... Children's programmes
18:00 ... News summary in Arabic
18:25 ... Programme on World Events
18:45 ... Scientific programme
19:00 ... Programming review
19:05 ... News in Arabic
20:35 ... Arabic series
21:30 ... Monday Forum
22:20 ... Variety programme
23:00 ... News summary in Arabic
23:10 ... Variety programme (cont'd.)

PROGRAMME TWO
17:30 ... Construire Pour Le Peuple
18:30 ... Rire Carami
19:00 ... News in French
19:15 ... Weekly Sport magazine
19:30 ... News in Hebrew
19:45 ... Varieties
20:00 ... News in Arabic
20:30 ... Ever Occurring Circles
21:10 ... Enemy at the Door
22:00 ... News in English
22:20 ... Play: "The Book of Murder"

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22:00 ... Light Music
22:05 ... Newsdesk
08:00 ... Morning Show
10:00 ... News Summary
10:45 ... Just a Minute
11:00 ... Good Vibrations
11:30 ... 30 Minute Theatres
12:00 ... News Summary
12:05 ... Pop Session
13:00 ... News Summary
13:05 ... Pop Session Contd.
14:00 ... News Bulletin
14:30 ... Special Feature
15:00 ... Concert Hour
16:00 ... News Summary
16:05 ... Old Instruments
17:00 ... Young Sound
Arab Scientists
News Summary
Sports Roundup
Music
News Desk
Date with a Star
20:00 ... Evening Show
21:00 ... News Summary
Evening Show Contd.

22:00 ... News Summary
06:30 ... Evening Show Continued
23:00 ... News Summary
23:05 ... Evening Show Continued
24:00 ... Close Down

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639, 720, 1323 KHz

06:00 News 06:10 Newslines 06:30 VO A Morning 07:00 News 07:10 Newslines 07:30 VOA Morning 16:00 News 16:10 Newslines 16:30 Music USA 17:00 News 17:10 Focus 17:30 Special English News & Features 18:00 News 18:10 Newslines 18:30 Magazine Show 19:00 News 19:20 Special English News & Features 20:30 Music USA 21:00 News & Editorial 21:15 Music USA Jazz 22:00 News 22:15 World Report

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King Hussein receives credentials of envoys

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received the credentials of new ambassadors to Jordan. They were held at the Royal Court in the presence of Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Oasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh and Foreign Minister Taher Al Ghulam of Bangladesh and Masri.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CONDOLENCES: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday delegated his advisor Mohammad Odeh to convey condolences to the Hanandeh family over the death of Mariam Mohammad, wife of Ali Saleh Hanandeh (Petra).

SHAFI' ZAID IN TURKEY: Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker left for Turkey Saturday at the head of a Jordanian military delegation on a several day official visit, during which he will meet with senior Turkish officials and visit a number of military sites (Petra).

SUDAN APPRECIATES HELP: Assistant Director of Amman Health Department Ali Al Muheisen, who also headed the Jordanian medical team to Sudan during the last two months said that the Sudanese people highly appreciates the efforts made by Jordan under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein and the continuous support of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, to help Sudan overcome its current difficulties (Petra).

HAJ HASSAN MEETS IRAQI AIDE: Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan met in his office Sunday with Iraqi Ministry of Trade Undersecretary Khaled Samara'i, during which he approved minutes of a three-day meeting by the Iraqi official with his Jordanian counterpart covering scopes of cooperation between Iraq and Jordan in transport (Petra).

TAL RETIRED: Ministry of Higher Education's Secretary General Ahmad Tal has been retired in accordance with a decision by the council of ministers. Tal is to be succeeded by Dr. Ahmad Al Bashir who had served as secretary general of the Ministry of Education (Petra).

CAMPAIGN FOR FAO RECONSTRUCTION: A campaign has started in Agaba to raise contributions for the reconstruction of the Iraqi port of Fao which was liberated by Iraqi forces from Iranian occupation last April. Donors who were reported to have visited the contribution centre included Jordanians, Iraqis and nationals of other Arab countries (Petra).

SQOUR LEAVES FOR SWEDEN: Ministry of Social Development's Secretary General Mohammad Sqour left Sunday for Stockholm on an official visit to Sweden at the invitation of his Swedish counterpart Sture Korpi. He is expected to hold talks with health and social affairs officials and tour Swedish organisations that care for the handicapped, child-care centres and mentally retarded institutions (Petra).

DRUG TRAFFICKER JAILED: The military governor has endorsed the military court's verdict sentencing Sa'di Salah Hassan to two years imprisonment and a fine of JD 1,500, after finding him guilty of trafficking hashish (Petra).

Scholar to deliver lecture on Al Aqsa Mosque

AMMAN (J.T.) — Head of the Middle East section of the School of Oriental and African Studies at London University, Geza Fehervari, today delivers a lecture entitled "Al Aqsa Mosque mihrab" (prayer niche) at the Engineering Faculty auditorium of the University of Jordan.

Dr. Fehervari is to Amman to take part in the three-day international symposium on Islamic art, which will be held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

The symposium will be chaired by Princess Wijdan Ali, who is the head of the Royal Society of Fine Arts.

Jordan, Syria discuss production of insecticides

AMMAN (Petra) — Representatives of the Syrian and Jordanian Ministries of Industry and Trade and a number of pan-Arab companies opened a meeting here Sunday to discuss the implementation of a project to produce insecticides which has been entrusted to the Jordan-Syrian Industry Company.

The delegates will discuss updating the project's feasibility study, steps to be taken to start carrying out the project and the financiers' contributions.

Addressing the first session of the two-day meeting was Syrian Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Industry Ahmad Al Hamzeh who said that the projected insecticide plant was a fruit of Syrian-Jordanian cooperation in industrial fields, benefiting the whole Arab nation.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. The readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition: Drawings and watercolours of German romanticism, at the Goethe Institute.

★ Soviet book exhibition, at Plaza Hotel.

★ Book exhibition at the Khansa' Secondary School in Madaba.

★ An art exhibition by Isam Salameh, at the University of Jordan.

★ Photo exhibition at the Soviet Cultural Centre — 5:30 p.m.

LECTURE

★ Dr. Jezza Fehervari gives a lecture in Arabic on "Al Aqsa Mosque Mihrab," at the Engineering Faculty auditorium of the University of Jordan — 11:00 a.m.

FILM

★ French film "Max Mon Amour" subtitled in Arabic, at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

★ A feature film entitled "Little Lord Fauntleroy," at the British Council — 5:00 p.m.

Seminar to discuss ways to reduce building costs

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan today opens a three-day seminar on reducing house construction costs, which has been organised by the Housing Corporation in cooperation with the Royal Scientific Society (RSS).

Surveys indicated that 85 per cent of the total need of housing is being supplied by the private sector in the Kingdom and that two per cent is being shouldered by a number of real estate organisations, Hiyasat noted.

He said that there is a need to support the private sector's role in housing, and the coming stage will allocate more care to limited income families.

Referring to the Abu Nuseir housing estate, Hiyasat said that the second stage of that project will be sold in plots of land.

The seminar will tackle building materials in addition to the prospect of executing major housing projects and unifying the different parties involved in the housing sector.

Jordan, Sudan sign memo of cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Sudan Sunday signed a memorandum of understanding paving the way for further cooperation and coordination between them in planning and housing affairs.

The memorandum provides for the entry and exit of equipment and machinery and expertise from and into either country, the introduction of channels of communication to ensure speedy exchanges of information related to tenders and construction projects to be carried out in the two countries by their respective Ministries of Public Works, and allowing construction sectors from Sudan and Jordan to bid for projects in either country.

The memorandum also encourages cooperation between Sudanese and Jordanian professional unions and the formation of joint companies to carry out projects.

The memorandum referred to the prospect of Sudan importing Jordanian cement and allowing Jordanian trucks to carry the cement via Port Sudan to different destinations inside the country, in accordance with an agreement that would be signed at a later date.

The memorandum also in-

Aga Khan to support training and research at University of Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — President of the University of Jordan Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali received a letter from His Highness Aga Khan informing him that the board of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) has approved, in its meeting held on Sept. 23, 1988, to support the Department of Architecture and the Faculty of Engineering and Technology at the University of Jordan in its initiative to strengthen the department's capacity to engage in graduate-level training and research.

To this effect, the AKTC will provide a grant specifically to assist the department to establish a new area of study in the field of advanced architectural theory and design through the recruitment and funding of an Aga Khan Visiting Professor at the University of Jordan.



Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh Sunday receives a two-member Syrian delegation and a regional representative of the World Health Organisation in Amman.

Hamzeh, Syrian health team discuss cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — A two-member Syrian health delegation met here Sunday with Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh in the presence of a regional representative for the World Health Organisation (WHO) in Jordan and Syria.

They discussed cooperation in health affairs and Jordan's primary health care programmes that are designed to meet WHO's target of providing health services for all citizens by the year 2000.

Preventive medicine and curative medicine in Jordan have both been embodied in the concept of primary health care which was initiated by the WHO in 1978, the health minister explained at the meeting.

He said that primary health care services are providing 95 per

Arab women's conference opens in Cairo

Princess Basma: Development must include rural women too

CAIRO (Petra) — Jordan believes in an active role for women in developing the society's potential and in women's contributions to stability within the Jordanian family, Her Royal Highness Princess Basma said here Sunday.

work best fitting their community.

Princess Basma informed the meeting that another meeting in Amman, two days ago, had established a pan-Arab Women's Scientific Council which, she said, would cater for Arab women's activities vis-a-vis development.

The Princess was elected the council's president at the conclusion of the council's two-day meeting in Amman on Friday.

A final statement said that the council will advocate women's

role in community development and enhance female leadership in dealing with national issues.

Princess Basma said that membership to the council is now open for all men and women enabling them to contribute to the fulfilment of its goals and objectives.

Dr. Mohammad Abdulla Nour, the UNDP Regional Director, outlined the aims of the conference which will mainly focus on how the UNDP can help individual Arab countries in executing development programmes.

Candidates posture for Jewish lobby — U.S. academic

By Najwa Najar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In the midst of the American presidential campaign, one of the most prominent issues on which both candidates agree on, is their continued moral, financial and political support for Israel. But a senior member of several Democratic presidential campaigns, Dr. Elaine Karmark, pointed out that the candidates "sound" more pro-Israel than they really are.

"Every four years come April the candidates bring up moving the American embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem," said Karmark who is also a professor of political science at Bryn Mawr.

During a working lunch with journalists arranged by the American Center on Saturday she noted that the high concentration of Jews in specific cities in the U.S. has led to candidates' rhetoric on Israel, in an attempt to capture the Jewish vote.

She observed that during the primaries in places like Ohio, pro-Israel support is rarely voiced by the candidates. "But, when primaries are held in April in New York, where 40 per cent of the population is Jewish, then you will hear the candidates speaking out on moving the embassy."

American policy, however, is to keep the embassy in Tel Aviv.

"Actually, no one, not even

American Jews expect the embassy to be moved. It is a symbolic

test for American Jews to see if

the candidate is pro-Israel," Kar-

marck said.

In addition to the candidates' desire to secure the Jewish votes in major American cities, Karmark noted three factors which "bond" the presidential candidates' support for Israel.

The first two are the moral and cultural bonds, forged by the holocaust, and the friendships

nurtured between Americans and Jews living in the U.S. and from the similarities between the American and Israeli political process.

"Both are being democratic and having a open press."

The third is a strategic bond, "the bond American Jews prefer to speak about," said Karmark.

According to her, the reason

American Jews stress the strategic alliance between the two

countries, "is that moral bonds fade as memories of the holocaust fade."

The well organised and power-

ful Israeli lobby plays an additional and major role in shaping American public opinion. The lobby, which supports mainly U.S. Congressmen and Senators, "is so important since the media's preception often comes from Senators," explained Karmark.

She added that although Arab Americans' voice is increasingly being heard in domestic politics, the Arab-American lobby does not have the same power and influence as the American Jewish lobby.

"We have had a one-sided story and we do not feel that we have anything in common with the Arabs."

Although the intifada in the West Bank and Gaza Strip has changed the attitude of some Americans including American Jews, who have spoken out strongly against the Israeli practices in the occupied territories, the change is not significant

enough to have a major impact on the whole election process, she said.

Moreover, world affairs and politics are not important to most Americans, Karmark said, explaining that the U.S. being surrounded by two oceans, Canada and Mexico, allows Americans to live without the possibility of an impending war.

According to Karmark, 50 per cent of all Americans eligible to vote, will not do so this November.

Karmark will be visiting Jerusalem, Riyadh and Jeddah to present lectures on the American electoral process. She delivered her speech at the American Center in Amman on Saturday. "I believe that if people in this part of the world understand the process of elections in the U.S. then they could understand the candidates' preoccupation with Israel," she said.

Experts uncover remains of Roman, Ottoman periods at Khirbet Al Faris

AMMAN (J.T.) — Excavation and survey was carried out by a British team sponsored by the British Institute at Amman for Archaeology and History (BIAAH) and Newcastle University at Khirbet Al Faris, near Al Qaser, for five weeks during March/April 1988.

Intensive sharding of the site produced ceramic evidence for occupation within the survey area from the late Iron Age to the late

Ottoman period, and architectural remains from the early Roman and Ottoman periods.

Three small trenches were excavated and a machine trench was "cleaned-up". The results from these preliminary excavations produced evidence for domestic occupation in the Ottoman period in all three trenches and ninth-twelfth century occupation in a re-used vaulted structure that seems to have been originally of

early Roman date.

The ceramic assemblage from the excavated areas and the survey will be useful in both defining inter-site shifts through time and in elucidating the pottery typology for this area which, particularly in the Islamic periods, has been previously derived from survey material.

It is planned to continue excavation on a larger scale next year, March/April 1989.

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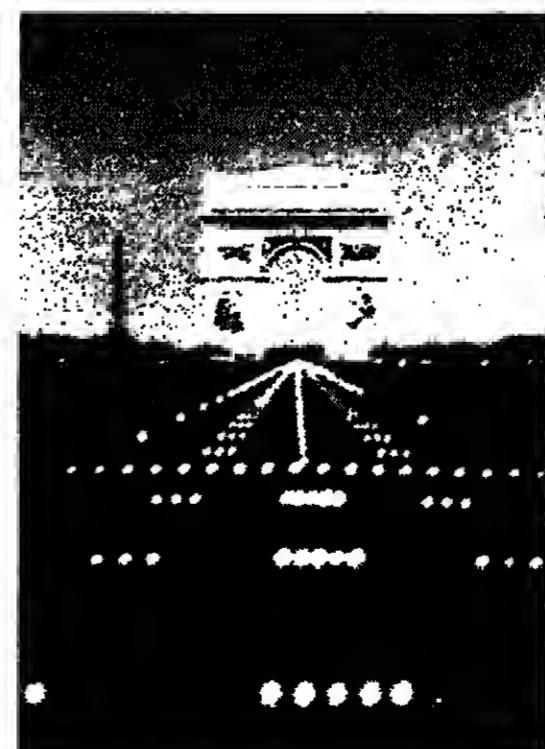
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The voice from within

ACCORDING to recent opinion polls taken in Israel, Israeli Arabs will cast more votes during the upcoming Israeli elections in November than ever. It was projected by these polls that the 600,000-strong Arab minority in Israel would elect nine members of the 120-member Israeli Knesset thus posing a real threat to any eventual formation of government in Israel in the wake of the elections.

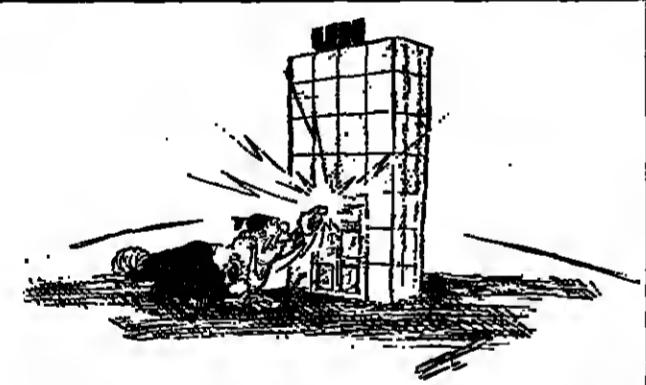
Clearly the Palestinian uprising has generated more Arab interest and involvement in Israeli politics than ever and awakened their sense of Palestinian nationalism and solidarity with their compatriots in the occupied territories. What is even more important is the fact that Israeli Arab political prowess is no longer dispersed and unorganised. It took a Palestinian resurrection to shake the Israeli Arabs from their political lethargy and indifference. And it has given the Israeli Arabs a new avenue and dimension hitherto unexplored fully to lend supportive hand to the resolution of the Palestinian problem.

What remains is to gauge accurately the effect of Israeli Arabs' involvement in Israeli elections on the outcome of the November elections while we do not detect a marked difference thus far between the Likud and Labour parties on the fundamentals of the Palestinian conflict, the proven political muscle of the Israeli Arabs must be exploited now to extricate sound political platforms from the competing Israeli political parties on the Palestinian case and to cast their votes accordingly.

The nearly eight per cent control over the Israeli parliament's seats is a formidable political force with which much meaningful negotiations can be initiated from now until November.

The Israeli Arab leaders are certainly better placed to judge this political game than Arabs elsewhere. We have faith in their political wisdom and their ability to play their political cards shrewdly and wisely. None of us would want to see an eventual Israeli government which is controlled by forces hostile to reason and common sense. That is why the stakes for the Israeli Arab voters are high and the paradoxes numerous and dangerous.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS



TWO of the Jordanian Arabic dailies Sunday tackled the question of Lebanon in the light of a looming danger represented in the end-of-mandate of parliament speaker Hussein Al Hussein. If Lebanon's parliament fails to elect a new speaker, said Al Ra'i daily, then further complications will emerge and a solution for the presidential crisis will be more remote than ever. The Lebanese people realize more than others the grave danger awaiting them if political confusion is allowed to continue because it might lead to a de facto partition of Lebanon, the paper added. It said such partition is of serious consequences to the Arabs since it serves Israel's strategic objectives and renders the Arab countries more vulnerable to similar patterns of disintegration. It is a real test not only for the Lebanese but also for all Arabs who do not wish to see their nation rendered apart, the paper noted. For its part, Al DUSTOUR daily welcomed the idea of a parliament session in Lebanon which it said could find a successor to Hussein and avoid a constitutional vacuum. The coming meeting represents a real test to the Lebanese and their will and desire for peace, the paper noted. It said that the meeting is bound to contribute to the current efforts to save Lebanon from partition and further divisions and disintegration. The Arab masses, said the paper, will be watching Tuesday's meeting of parliament in Beirut to see its results, hoping that the deputies will finally agree on the first steps towards salvation.

Sawt Al Shabab daily commented on the council of minister's guidelines to government departments designed to gradually reduce the budget deficit. These guidelines are bound to help the Kingdom avoid excessive payment for unnecessary imported products with hard currency and enable it to increase production and improve services, the paper noted. It said that the cabinet's instructions are clearly intended to boost the national industry, but at the same time to provide protection for basic food supplies benefiting low-income families. The guidelines it said bear clear indication that the government is concerned to honour its commitments and pay its foreign debts and services on these debts.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARY

Yes for austerity

AL DUSTOUR's economic columnist Sunday calls on Jordan to adopt austerity measures which means reducing its imports of unnecessary goods and rationalising spending. Abdallah Al Maliki says prices in Jordan are going up noticeably and perhaps housewives and retail merchants are more informed about this situation since they conduct a day-to-day business with various products. The continuous rise in prices will eventually lead to a rise in inflation that could reach ten or 15 per cent, and this will severely affect the unemployed among Jordanians, the columnist points out. He says the rise in prices could be due to a number of reasons including the rate of exchange of the Jordanian dinar, but what is important is to follow the example of other developing nations which opted for austerity measures to deal with similar situations.

Soviet-Israeli rapprochement

By Waleed Sadi

THERE is a noticeable flurry of political activity going on now between Israel and the Warsaw Pact countries. At first glance this development may look puzzling or surprising to unsuspecting Arab peoples. After all, the *raison d'être* for the severance of diplomatic and political relations between the socialist countries and Israel, namely, the Israeli-Arab war of 1967 and its consequences, is still there hovering over our and their heads. Many Arabs may feel cheated or even stabbed in the back to watch the beginning of the process of normalisation of relations between Tel Aviv and the capitals of the Eastern Bloc before Israel is made to end its occupation of Arab territories.

Surprisingly, however, Arab anxiety, if any, over the warming up of relations between Israel and the European communist countries is remarkably stoic and muted. It seems that the Arab peoples have become callous to tragedies and misfortunes of every kind. In fact, Arab contemporary and post-Islamic golden age history is but a series of bad news with very few glorious feats to record in its annals. To compound the bleak picture in the Arab countries even more, not even massacres on the scale of Sabra and Shatila had succeeded in igniting the Arab national indignation.

Arabs everywhere appear to be in a state of suspended animation with indifference and fatalism reigning supreme. That is why the irreversible Soviet rapprochement with Israel goes by without causing as much as a winkle in the drowsy Arab eyes or a ripple in the Arab capitals.

But this is not the whole story. New giant events and steps have overtaken and superseded the old ones on the international arena.

Specifically speaking, with the introduction of the Gorbachevian revolution to the Soviet and international arenas, the world has become the spectator of an entirely new global power game with far-reaching direct and side effects. To be sure, this updated Russian Revolution has brought forth a novel international code of conduct on the political, economic and military levels. New considerations and premises were introduced by this reformist Soviet movement which have preempted old and archaic ones.

Caught in the web of this evolving entente between the East and West are of course the Arab countries and their national interests as perceived by the Arab peoples and their governments. With Moscow and its allies having a fixation on unleashing the dynamics of modernisation in all its political and economic dimensions, the Arabs' place in the Soviet bloc new equation seems to recede.

To cut a long story short, the European socialist countries have rediscovered that they are first and foremost European nations which share a common civilisational background with the Western world. In order to be able to let loose the dynamics of modernisation and have them run their course in the heartland of the socialist bloc, there was no escape from striving for an accommodation with the Western capitals, especially if it could be conducted on honourable and reciprocal basis as indeed the situation has turned out to be.

Certainly, it stands to reason that the allies of the West like Israel would stand to reap also the fruit of the entente now blossoming between the superpowers. It would be illogical from the Western point of view for the East to seek its friendship and at

the same time maintain a hostile profile against one of its offspring! Obviously, this equation works both ways as the allies of the Soviet bloc countries would also end up benefiting from the new code of conduct between Washington and Moscow.

As much of the Soviet and Eastern Bloc "infatuation" with the Arab World was artificially induced and predicated on the premise of constant zealous hostility between the North Atlantic Alliance and the Warsaw Pact, and whereas many of these preconditions are slowly but surely eroding and fading away into oblivion, it figures that Moscow would sooner or later redefine its relations with the Arab World and evolve its seemingly unqualified support into a qualified one.

To put it more bluntly, the weight of the Arab World as it is presently constituted as far as the Warsaw Pact countries is concerned would decrease in a way proportional to the degree of detente achievable between the East and the West.

Over and above these considerations, the Soviet bloc countries know only too well that the Jews in most Western countries enjoy a privileged status and therefore hold the key to the success or failure of the on-going process of cooperation and detente between the two blocs. Surely Moscow would not want to give the American Jews, for example, an excuse to derail one of their cherished objectives.

On second thought, no wonder the Arab World has not staged an uproar over the Israeli-Soviet bloc rapprochement. The fundamentals of real-politik must have soaked very deeply this time into the Arab psyche.

OPEN FORUM

Nobel Prize: A noble idea

In a recent article in *The Washington Post*, the American columnist, *Colman McCarthy*, questioned the wisdom behind giving the Nobel Prize to the U.N. peace-keeping forces for the year 1988.

He argued that if the Norwegian Nobel committee could not find a person or a body worthy of this symbolic award, then this should have been another no-winner year, as was the case in 1972.

To reward a person or an organisation for the services rendered to cement peace anywhere any time, is unquestionably a noble effort. It is not the intention of this writer to question the importance of such an endeavour. The question we should be pondering in the Middle East is something else.

According to some reports there are approximately 10,000 men, in different contingents, and under different names, stationed in seven trouble spots around the world. Aside from the Indian-Pakistani borders and Afghanistan, (a force not exceeding 86 men all together), the remainder of these contingents are stationed in the Middle East. Some of them have been in the area for quite some time.

The bulk of these men is positioned between Israel and some Arab states; about 350 of them are observing the ceasefire lines between Iran and Iraq; some 2,100 men have been monitoring the buffer zone between the Turkish and Greek sectors in Cyprus since 1973.

The mission of these blue-beret men could provide some food for thought: Should people in this region be happy and grateful for all the attention bestowed on them by the international community? Or can they help not to worry because they are doomed to the permanent presence of the peace-keeping force as another fixture in their lives, such as bad-traffic or Roman amphitheatres, or cedar or olive trees?

In comparison with other trouble spots on this earth, people in the Middle East may wonder how other enemy-neighbours survive their quarrels, before and after they erupt. In this instance, memory can flash immediately to other regions such as Central America, South East Asia, South and Central Africa, and other explosive spots.

What is so unique about our area that generations have to grow up with this constant reminder of the hostility curse? Is it something inherent in the psyche of the people of this region to live in a continuous state of tension and fear? Or is it an imposed syndrome?

Indeed, we are happy that these men's mission has been appropriately rewarded this year. We shall be happier if we could, one day soon, bid them farewell when they have accomplished their mission.

Salim Ayoub



Afghanistan: Moscow fills the military gap with economic aid

By Michael Battye
Reuters

KABUL — Moscow has triggered intense diplomatic speculation over its intentions in Afghanistan by promising massive post-war reconstruction aid and appointing a powerful diplomat as its envoy to Kabul.

Western diplomats said Friday that the Soviet government

appeared to be trying to salvage what political and economic influence it could four months before it is due to withdraw its last combat troops from Afghanistan.

"Obviously, some major political manoeuvring is going on," one diplomat said.

But they could find no hard evidence in the moves to suggest exactly what Moscow had in mind after nine years of military involvement, that could end with the war between the Soviet-backed government and Mujahideen rebels unresolved.

On Wednesday, Moscow promised \$600 million to a United Nations post-war reconstruction fund, whose first phase cost is put at \$1.2 billion.

On Thursday, First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuli Vorontsov,

considered close to the Kremlin leadership, was named as ambassador. He will keep his ministerial post.

The aid pledge left room for diplomatic cynicism on whether Moscow was prepared to step back from the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), whose government its troops have been propping up since 1979.

"It indicates to me that they have no interest in letting go, at least in the political-military sense. The tactics may have changed, but the policy hasn't," one diplomat said.

Another said: "I wouldn't want to commit myself before I've read the small print, but the offer appears to be tied to the provision of equipment, which will give Moscow a greater degree of control over the aid than if it simply gave money."

The diplomats agreed that Vorontsov would have considerable freedom of action. "People clear Afghan policy with him, not the other way round," one said.

They saw the central question as how Vorontsov would direct his power, with most Mujahideen groups apparently ready to settle

for nothing less than the complete removal of the PDPA.

Most Western diplomats in Kabul believe the Mujahideen claim that they will win the war once the Soviet troops have left by Feb. 15 under April's Geneva Accords, mediated by U.N. special representative Diego Corrao.

Others believe the PDPA can hold on to Kabul and other major cities in a military stalemate.

The Mujahideen has rejected the PDPA's offer of a coalition government and diplomats said that Moscow seemed disappointed at the failure of this attempt at "national reconciliation."

"It might be that the next Soviet fall-back position would be to embrace the Cordovez plan and Vorontsov would negotiate that," one said.

Cordovez proposed that a neutral government be established in Kabul to oversee the Soviet withdrawal and then hold a traditional Afghan assembly, known as a "Loya Jirga," to form a government.

Diplomats believe any government elected in Kabul, based on the Geneva accords, will be less supportive of the Mujahideen than military President Mohammad Zia-Ul-Haq, killed in an August plane crash.

They said any peace offer from Vorontsov would probably be rejected by the Mujahideen and he would be a new step in what diplomats see as a campaign to enhance the PDPA's credibility as the peace-seekers in a long and bitter war.

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Space back in fashion in U.S. as shuttle resumes business

Basra rises from the ashes of war

By Subby Haddad
Reuter

BASRA, Iraq — The devastated Iraqi city which stemmed the advance of Iran's revolutionary forces is emerging from the ashes of war after eight years under siege.

Thousands of civilians are returning to the port city of Basra, once only a rifle-shot from the frontlines of the Gulf war.

Iran's blitzkrieg into Iraq faltered at frontline-Basra two years ago.

Iraqi troops in bunkers and trenches clung to the city as night after night Iranian artillery gunners pounded it from across the Shatt Al Arab waterway.

But the Iranians were unable to drive a wedge into the city and the siege failed.

When Baghdad turned the tide of war against Iran earlier this year, pushing the Iranians back across the Shatt Al Arab, Basra emerged, bloodied but unbowed.

The governor of this city of 10 million palm trees on the banks of the Shatt Al Arab waterway, now says he plans to turn it into the Venice of the East.

"Thousands of workers, including some working for foreign companies, are working day and night to reconstruct damaged buildings and build new ones," governor Anwar Sa'eed Al Hadiyyah said Friday.

Hadiyyah said one house in Basra was destroyed in the shelling which killed 1,638 civilians and wounded 7,282.

"More than 95 per cent of those who left Basra to escape intensive Iranian shelling during the last few years of the war have re-

turned and Basra's population now exceeds one million," he added.

Hadiyyah said the Iraqi government had allocated \$4.5 billion to rebuild Basra, in addition to money in the annual budget and five-year plan.

Much of Basra was destroyed by Iranian artillery shells and rocket fire during the eight year Iran-Iraq war which ended with a U.N.-brokered ceasefire on Aug. 20.

Many of the buildings and hotels along the Shatt Al Arab waterway, which forms the frontline with Iran, are little more than shell-pocked ruins.

Rusting hulls of ships partly block the silted-up channels — bullets and shell-holes in their superstructure bearing mute testimony to the fighting which raged around the southern Iraqi city.

The blocked waterway is Basra's only outlet to the Gulf.

Hadiyyah said nearly 65,000 heavy artillery shells fell on the city destroying thousands of houses, 140 schools, 57 mosques, 38 hotels, 18 hospitals, six churches and 1,888 civilian cars, in addition to heavy damage to government property.

During the visit to Basra, reporters saw a revitalised city with bustling markets and crowded streets.

"I left Basra after an Iranian shell destroyed my house a few months ago... Now I have returned to rebuild," said a Basra resident.

Heavy lorries were ferrying in tonnes of bricks and cement as bulldozers toiled to remove massive piles of rubble clearing the way for new houses to be built.

Rifai urges public participation

(Continued from page 1)

He said that much of the recent demand for foreign currencies may have occurred for the purposes of capital flight or speculation against the dinar and that the government was capable of financing the legitimate needs of the private sector. He said some individuals "must not expect the government to provide them with cheap dollars for speculation purposes."

He added: "The government has great financial commitments. We have to cover the imports of the public and private sectors, servicing our foreign debt and paying interest on loans."

The prime minister said Jordan's revenues stood at \$1 billion, while its imports exceeded \$2.8 billion in the same year.

"This gap must be reduced by increasing exports and squeezing imports," he said. The recent measures will increase the competitiveness of Jordanian exports and investments and that the government will continue to support the private sector, which "can play a vital role."

Arab states, with the exception of Saudi Arabia, to fulfill their financial commitments to the Kingdom in accordance with the 1978 Baghdad summit resolutions.

He said Jordan had borrowed from abroad based on expectations that Arab states would honour their financial commitments to the Kingdom. He said the country's indebtedness was almost the same as the unpaid Arab financial commitments within the projections of Arab financial assistance estimated at \$6 billion.

Rifai said Arab leaders pledged at the Amman Arab summit and the Algiers summit to pay their commitments over the coming years.

The private sector, he said, has failed to play an effective role in economic growth, despite several packages of incentives and facilities offered by the government to boost investments and economic activity. However, he added, the government will continue to support the private sector, which "can play a vital role."

Citing other examples on the drain of foreign currencies, the prime minister said that while the Kingdom had a \$600 million foreign currency revenue from tourism last year, Jordanians spent \$450 million abroad on tourism, studies and treatment. He said that last year's remittances from expatriates reached \$900 million, but that foreign workers in the country transferred \$200 million outside.

Reducing spending

In the area of reducing public spending, Rifai said the government would reduce its imports of cars and equipment and other requirements with the hope that the private sector would respond by reducing imports of luxury products.

Rifai agreed that the recent monetary measures may create inflationary effects on the economy but that the government hopes inflation will remain within reasonable limits. He said the government was determined not to raise the prices of basic food commodities even if there was an increase in international prices. He said the government was considering a reduction in the prices of some services such as water and electricity.

In response to a question, Rifai categorically denied that there was a decline in remittances from expatriates.

"Remittances are continuing at their annual average and I wish to confirm that there is absolutely no truth to these rumours."

Rifai regretted the failure of

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DOLBY STEREO

Gulf Arab oil chiefs ponder ways to boost output, prices

RIYADH (R) — Oil ministers of six Gulf Arab states, responsible for one-fifth of the non-communist world's crude oil production, met in Riyadh Sunday to discuss ways of raising world oil prices.

One Gulf-based oil trader said dealers expected the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) ministers to agree on a policy which could lead to a new OPEC quota agreement to replace a battered 1986 pact on output and prices.

The GCC links Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — all members of OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) — with non-OPEC Bahrain and Oman.

A glutted market, caused by several OPEC members including Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the UAE exceeding their output quotas, has forced world spot prices down to their lowest for two years.

Saudi Arabia, the world's

largest oil exporter, has said repeatedly that other OPEC states must respect quota discipline before it will lower its production.

Oil industry sources said the Saudis were apparently trying to line up their Gulf allies behind a policy which would enable OPEC to raise the quotas of some individual members.

"All Gulf members, especially Kuwait and the UAE, want higher quotas and they might agree on a proposal to OPEC on a new agreement on allocations," said one analyst in the Gulf.

The 1986 pact set a total production ceiling of 15.06 million barrels per day (bpd) for 12 members, excluding Iraq. Forecasts put world demand for OPEC oil at about 19 million bpd next year.

Vatican announces \$64 billion deficit, appeals for contributions

VATICAN CITY (R) — The Vatican Saturday announced a record deficit of \$63.8 million in 1987 and appealed to Catholics throughout the world to increase their contributions to the work of the Catholic Church.

Official details of the Holy See's budget showed the shortfall was the highest since the Vatican began releasing selected figures about its finances in the early 1980s. The 1986 deficit was \$56.7 million.

A special commission of cardinals appointed to oversee the church's finances said the deficit was expected to increase in 1988 and warned the Vatican had exhausted all its reserve funds.

"The commission therefore appeals urgently to all dioceses, congregations, religious institutes

and as well as all the faithful of the world, particularly those in more affluent countries, to increase their cooperation towards the Holy See to allow it adequately to carry out its pastoral mission," a statement issued by the cardinals said.

As in past years, the Vatican said part of the 1987 deficit would be covered by drawing on "Peter's Pence" fund, a collection made in Catholic churches around the world for the Pope's use.

The 1987 "Peter's Pence" contributions, traditionally destined for missions and charitable works, rose to \$50 million compared to \$32 million in 1986. The remaining \$13.8 million of the 1987 deficit was met by drawing on funds set aside in previous

years. But the statement said the funds were now exhausted, and it was uncertain whether a projected \$66 million deficit for the current year could be met.

The budget covers the Catholic Church's central administration, including departments for social, religious, and diplomatic affairs and its daily newspaper and radio station.

The Vatican said the largest single expenditure during 1987 was the salaries of its 2,325 employees. These, plus pension payments, accounts for 54 per cent of the budget.

The largest source of income, nearly \$38 million, was from investments on bank accounts, securities and property. Most Vatican property is in Rome and other parts of Italy.

Oil analysts said Saudi Arabia's policy was intended to depress prices until the financial pressures of lower revenues forced OPEC members to respect their quotas.

"Accepting quotas on oil and abiding by them is another," said one analyst. "The Saudis this time want every state to be included in an OPEC output pact, including Iraq."

Production by Iraq, which remained outside the 1986 pact because it was not given a quota equal to Iran's 2.369 million bpd, is now estimated at 2.7 million bpd.

Several Gulf newspapers ex-

pressed hope that the six GCC ministers would agree a strategy which would lead to proper cooperation between OPEC and non-OPEC producers.

Saudi Arabia's Arabic-language daily Al Nadwa said the ministers should emerge from the two-day meeting with a united policy reiterating obedience to

prices at least \$7 below the OPEC reference price of \$18 a barrel set in the 1986 pact.

The Madrid meetings will bring together OPEC's eight top producers — Algeria, Iraq, Indonesia, Iran, Kuwait, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.

AMMAN issues 10th report, '88 statistics

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amman Financial Market (AFM) has recently published in English its tenth annual report and a booklet which both include information and statistics about the activities at both the primary and secondary markets and rules and regulations governing foreign and Arab investments in the market.

The report and the booklet contain tables and statistics about trading that took place during the years 1978-1987.

The publications were published upon a strong belief that the disclosure of information is vital in helping foreign investors to make investment decisions on clear, rational and objective lines.

The AFM is willing to distribute the booklet locally and internationally upon request and free of charge.

Libya's desert river to flow next year

WASHINGTON (R) — More reforms are needed to bolster investor confidence in stock markets and reduce the risk of another collapse like the one a year ago, the chairman of the American Stock Exchange said Sunday.

"I don't think it would happen again quite in the same way," Arthur Levitt said in a televised interview. "But unless we make some significant additional changes, I remain concerned about the future."

Wall Street share prices suffered their sharpest plunge in history Oct. 19, 1987.

Levitt said two recommendations made by a presidential commission were necessary but had not been carried out.

"Number one, to have a joint central clearing facility which would clear all trades in futures, options and in the underlying securities," Levitt said. "That hasn't happened yet."

"Secondly, the important recommendation to have a joint regulatory authority so that the rules for futures, the rules for underlying securities, are made by the same body."

"Today they remain redundant, sometimes contradictory, and that remains a problem to be met before we can get the public to come back into this market-place."

Levitt said he hoped the stock markets' self-regulatory agencies could act soon to head off more onerous legislative changes.

"I think the Congress is impatient in the face of a laissez-faire

Jordan to benefit

Turkey completes study on water for Arab countries

He said the western branch of the peace water pipeline would supply Syria, Jordan and parts of Saudi Arabia — including Tabuk, Yanbu, Medina, Mecca and Jeddah.

The western pipeline would have 11 pumping stations using 900 megawatts of power along a 2,650-kilometre route.

The Gulf pipeline would cross Saudi Arabia to Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

That branch would require 600 megawatts of power for five pumping stations across a 3,900-kilometre distance.

Estimated cost for the western pipeline is around \$8.5 billion and another \$12.5 billion for the Gulf pipeline, Saribas said.

He said Turkish experts and consultants from the American firm Brown and Root already had visited Syria, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman to collect technical information for the project.

International and regional experts have warned that the Gulf countries are depleting their natural aquifers faster than nature can replenish them and the area will face a water shortage in the coming years.

Exchange president stresses reforms to reassure investors

administer and my concern is that the Congress may over-regulate," he said.

Levitt said the U.S. presidential candidates — Republican George Bush and Democrat Michael Dukakis — had neglected the issue of how to cure the huge federal budget deficit, which he said was unsettling investors.

As a result, "the public gains no reassurance in terms of the ability of our national leaders to meet this critical problem," he said.

The deficit is the most serious problem facing the United States, Levitt said.

He said the reasons for the markets' plunge last year still were poorly understood and suggested there should be a "non-partisan, impartial, long-term study of our markets... headed by someone of impeccable credentials" to reassure the public.

He said it was a legitimate question whether small investors believe they are treated as well as big institutional buyers and said a study might help persuade them to return to the market.

John Dingell, chairman of the House of Representatives Energy Committee, appearing on the same TV programme, said another stock market collapse was possible because of the huge U.S. national debt and budget deficit.

Dingell said "the little guys sees the market as a crapshoot" and the Reagan administration has opposed recommendations for reforming it.

UAE firm to set up new lubricant plant

ABU DHABI (R) — The Abu Dhabi National Oil Company for Distribution (ADNOC-FOD)

will set up a new \$12 million lubricant plant to meet growing demand, a newspaper said Saturday.

The Arabic daily Al Bayan quoted Salim Abu Nuwais, head of the company's marketing department, as saying the new plant would produce 30,000 tonnes of lubricants a year.

ADNOC-FOD, the largest lubricant distributor in the United

Arab Emirates (UAE), currently produces 36,000 tonnes per year.

Competitive prices brought on by low production costs have boosted demand for the company's products by around seven per cent during the past four years. Officials said last month they planned to enter new markets in Africa and Europe.

Nuwaib told Al Bayan ADNOC-FOD was also planning to set up 31 petrol stations in the UAE's northern emirates, bringing the company's stations to nearly 100.

SAIB net profit rises over 100%

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Investment Bank (SAIB), the kingdom's smallest joint venture bank, said its third quarter profit more than doubled from the same period a year ago.

In an unaudited statement appearing in the Arabic press, SAIB said its net profit for the nine month period ending Sept. 30 rose to 14.3 million riyals (\$3.8 million) from 6.2 million (\$1.7 million) last year.

It said operating income climbed 22.3 per cent to 44.3 million riyals (\$11.8 million) while loan provisions were left unchanged at 30 million (\$8 million).

Total assets fell to 3.92 billion riyals (\$1 billion) from 4.23 billion (\$1.1 billion) in 1987.

Loans and advances also declined 3.8 per cent to 730.5 million riyals (\$195 million) while total deposits fell 8.8 per cent to 3.62 billion (\$965 million).

Many Saudi banks have made strong improvements in profitability during 1988 after years of declining earnings in the post oil-boom period.

Banks say they have tackled many of their bad loans to the private sector, axed overhead costs, and received a boost from rising interest rates.

SAIB is 15 per cent owned by Chase Manhattan Bank, 10 per cent by National Industrialisation Company, and eight per cent each by National Commercial Bank, Riyad Bank and the General Organisation for Social Insurance.

Bank Al Jazira, the Industrial Bank of Japan, J. Henry Schroder Wagge Co. Limited, each own five per cent of the bank with the remaining 36 per cent held by the Saudi public.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

	Sunday rates		Market rates	
	Central Bank official rates		Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	420.0	422.0	444.1	451.7
Pound Sterling	741.5	743.2	766.0	787.0
Deutschmark	232.8	234.0	244.9	249.3
Swiss franc	275.7	277.1	281.7	291.0
French franc	68.1	68.4	70.9	72.8
Japanese yen (for 100)	332.0	333.7	—	—
Dutch guilder	206.3	207.3	—	—
Swedish crown	67.5	67.8	67.0	69.0
Italian lira (for 100)	31.2	31.4	—	—
Belgian franc (for 10)	110.9	111.5	—	—
Saudi riyal	—	—	116.1	117.4
Lebanese lira	—	—	—	—
Syrian lira	—	—	10.2	10.3
Iraqi dinar	—	—	275.0	285.0
Kuwaiti dinar	—	—	155.2	156.7
Egyptian pound (new)	—	—	190.0	198.3
Egyptian pound (old)	—	—	180.0	188.3
UAE dirham	—	—	118.2	119.5
Omani riyal	—	—	119.5	120.5
Bahraini dinar	—	—	1145.0	1160.0
	—	—	1167.0	1179.0

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

Activity on the Amman Financial Market for Oct. 16, 1988.			
Number	Volume	Contracts	
Regular market:			
Top three companies:	566494	JD 770011	802
Arab Aluminium Industries	55100	JD 101938	73
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	66350	JD 89035	87
Arab Bank Ltd.	660	JD 74868	21
Parallel market:	6406	JD 1640	—
Development bonds:	12891	JD 173303	—
Treasury bills & bonds:	—	—	—

JORDAN BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Ministry of Industry and Trade	66319
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Sports

4,000 athletes to participate in Paralympics in Seoul

SEOUL (AP) -- A campaign is under way to seek the International Olympic Committee's support for disabled athletes who want to compete in the Olympic games, an international sports official said Sunday.

"Sports for the disabled should be a genuine part of the sports movement worldwide," said Jens Bromann of Denmark, president of the International Coordinating Committee of the World Sports Organization for the Disabled.

Bromann, here for the 8th international Paralympic games, which started Saturday, said discussions were under way with the International Olympic Committee and international sports federations on revising "old-fashioned" rules and classifications regarding participants.

Bromann said Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee, planned to make his first visit to a Paralympics next week, and talks would be renewed on efforts to open the Olympic games to disabled athletes.

Disabled people can do unique things in the sports arenas, just as well as the able-bodied. Disabled persons want the same honour as other sportsmen," Bromann said.

He said that the Paralympics, an international games for the disabled, would be held even after disabled athletes were permitted in Olympic sports but would consist of competitions "in sports not included in the IOC Olympics."

This year's largest-ever Paralympics, scheduled Oct. 14-15, has competitions in 16 sports. As

of Sunday there were 4,000 participants from 60 nations.

Four nations have protested a quota system which they claim limited the numbers of athletes they could send. The United States, Sweden, Denmark and West Germany said they were told to limit their delegations because of space at Paralympic village where athletes and coaches are housed.

The ICC said that in 1984, when arrangements were made with the South Korean government, the highest number in attendance at a Paralympics had been 2,500. The ICC said it requested accommodation for 4,000 and when the reservations totalled nearly 6,000, numbers had been cut back.

Meetings between the IOC and the ICC started in 1983, Bromann said, and resulted in sports for disabled athletes being added to recent Olympics as demonstration events. Wheelchair races took place during last month's Olympics in Seoul.

In addition, over the last two years, disabled athletes have competed in international competitions such as Track and Field in Rome, swimming in Barcelona and skiing in West Germany.

Bromann, blinded by an accident at age 10, was a Paralympic athlete in 1976 and 1980. He said he was frustrated that he was considered a disabled person instead of an athlete.

"Some say eight to 10 per cent of the world's population are disabled," he said. "In some countries, people think that if you're disabled, you must have done something bad in your former life."

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF

SAVE THAT ENTRY!

Neither vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
♦ K 10 5
A 10 7 4
A J 7 6 3
♦ 5

WEST
♦ K 9 8 4 2
Q J 7 6 3
Q 9 5
Q 10
♦ K 3

EAST
♦ 6 3
K 9 8 5
J 10 9 8 6 4 2

SOUTH
♦ A 7

The bidding:
East South West North

Pass Pass 1 ♠ Pass

2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Dbl

3 ♠ 5 ♠ Dbl Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♦

The Drury Convention has a considerable amount of merit. It is used to check on whether partner's third or fourth-seat opening bid was full value or a little light. But using any convention recklessly can be costly, as East learned.

If we were sitting East, we would not care much what sort of opening bid partner had; we would bounce into four spades and leave it up to the opponents to find a way to beat

us, if one existed. When East used a Drury two-club bid to check on the strength of his partner's opening

and West responded two diamonds to show a shaded opening, North seized the opportunity to double diamonds for penalties. As a result, South judged that the North-South hands were fitting well, and he bounced into five diamonds as an advance sacrifice.

West's opening lead of the ace of spades did declarer no harm. However, it would have done him no good either had he ruffed—declarer would have been an entry short to set up and run his club suit. Instead, declarer made the excellent play of discarding a low heart, and the defenders were powerless to prevent the contract from being brought home.

West did the best he could by shifting to a heart. Declarer won the ace, cashed the ace of diamonds and then led a club from the dummy. The heart continuation was ruffed, a club was ruffed on the table and declarer returned to hand with the king of diamonds to ruff another club. Since rumps split favorably, declarer was able to come back to hand with another ruff, and his hand was high.

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Savimbi: Southern Africa peace process irreversible

JAMBA, Angola (AP) — UNITA guerrilla chief Jonas Savimbi has said negotiations to remove Cuban soldiers from Angola and push Namibia (South West Africa) towards independence were at a difficult stage, but the peace process was irreversible.

"I don't see how the process can be interrupted," Savimbi said in an interview at a UNITA supply camp. "It can only be expedited. I don't see how the clock can be turned back."

He said the main issue was how many Cuban troops would leave Angola within the first year of an expected two-year period for total withdrawal. All but 5,000 should go in the first year, Savimbi said in the interview Friday.

Angola, Cuba, South Africa and U.S. mediators have been holding periodic talks since last year to negotiate the removal of more than 50,000 Cuban troops in Angola and independence for Namibia.

Discussions are expected to resume in Brazzaville, Congo, in about a week to meet a Nov. 1 target date for implementing a one-year U.N. independence plan for Namibia, Savimbi said.

UNITA — the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola — has not participated in the discussions but Savimbi said he has conferred separately with both U.S. and South African representatives.

"They are trying to maintain a certain degree of optimism," Savimbi said of the four-party negotiations.

Savimbi moves elusively through the bush, rarely spending more than a night at one place. He was interviewed by the AP and the New York Times in a thatched meeting room at dawn, after hours of driving, at times during the ride, even the reporters' UNITA escorts were not sure where he was.

The location was Luangundo

B, a supply camp separated from Jamba, UNITA's grass-hut headquarters in southeastern Angola, by 18 hours of bone-crunching travel along rutted trails in an open truck, through hail and broiling sun. The interviewers emerged to file their stories from South Africa Sunday.

Savimbi said South African fears of Cuban interference in Namibian independence would not be eased unless most of the Cubans left in the first year.

Savimbi said interests of the United States, South Africa and UNITA would not be damaged if a small number of Cubans remained after 12 months in defensive positions around Luanda, the capital, and in Cabinda, the oil-producing enclave



Vietnamese soldiers in Kampuchea's Kompong Cham province. The Vietnamese government announced Sunday that it was planning another partial withdrawal of its forces from its neighbour before December (File photo)

partial withdrawal of its forces from its neighbour before December (File photo)

Botha pulls major publicity coup with Ivory Coast visit

YAMOUSSOUKRO, Ivory Coast (R) — South Africa pulled off the biggest publicity coup yet in its courting of black Africa with a meeting this weekend between President P.W. Botha and the continent's elder statesman, Ivory Coast President Felix Houphouet-Boigny.

The five-hour stopover Saturday in the Ivory Coast capital Yamoussoukro was the first official visit by a South African president to this prosperous pro-Western state.

It was Botha's fourth foray since September into black Africa to try to win friends.

White minority-ruled South Africa has been treated as a pariah by most African states because of its apartheid policy of race segregation.

Ivorian officials were at pains to stress that Botha had asked for the meeting which gave him the unprecedented opportunity of being photographed with the dozen of black African leaders.

Houphouet-Boigny, at 83 black Africa's longest serving president, has advocated dialogue with Pretoria since 1971. He met former South African Prime Minister John Vorster

in Yamoussoukro in 1974.

According to diplomats, Botha also once met Houphouet-Boigny in secret.

Botha began his push to break

Pretoria's diplomatic isolation

with visits to Mozambique and Malawi in September, and to

South Africa on Oct. 1.

South Africa also started talks in May this year with Angola, Cuba and the United States on independence for Namibia, which Pretoria rules in defiance of the United Nations, coupled with a timetable for the departure of Cuban troops from Angola.

Cuba has an estimated 50,000

troops in Angola to help the Marxist government fight rebels of the National Union for

the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), who are in turn backed by Pretoria and the United States.

Pretoria has linked a Namibian peace agreement with a Cuban withdrawal from Angola, which borders Namibia to the north, the talks are expected to resume in the Congolese capital Brazzaville this week.

Houphouet-Boigny is in frequent contact with UNITA chief

Jonas Savimbi.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Pakistan extends Sharia code

ISLAMABAD (R) — Acting President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has extended a decree making all Pakistani laws subject to the Islamic Sharia code. A presidential ordinance Saturday made only minor modifications to a decree issued by the late military President Mohammad Zia-Ul-Haq June 15, the official news agency APP said. Zia's ordinance died a legal death Saturday as under Pakistani law it had to be ratified by the National Assembly within four months. Zia dissolved the parliament in May though a new one is to be elected Nov. 16. Ishaq Khan, who took office on Zia's death in a plane crash two months ago, effectively extended the initial ordinance by issuing a new, almost identical decree. Zia's decree made it possible for mullahs to challenge any law as non-Islamic, such as restrictions on Muslim men taking a second wife without permission from the first, legal sources said.

Laotian drought delays polls

BANGKOK (AP) — The Laotian government said it has been forced to postpone elections due to a severe drought expected to cause significant rice shortages, according to Laotian media reports. The KPL news agency, monitored in Bangkok, said Laotian rice farmers this year will harvest only four-fifths of last year's output. Laos, one of the world's poorest countries, had an estimated per capita income of \$140 last year. One news agency report said the Council of Ministers issued a decree Oct. 10 postponing elections at the prefectural and provincial levels from Oct. 23 to Nov. 20. The decree, signed by Prime Minister Kayxone Phomvihane, said election preparations had been disrupted by the drought in the central and southern provinces, and plagues of insects in the northern provinces.

Castro honours shootout diplomat

HAVANA (R) — President Fidel Castro presented a medal to Diplomat Carlos Medina, who was expelled from Britain in September after he shot at a former Cuban intelligence agent, the official newspaper Granma reported Saturday. The presentation took place Friday at the headquarters of the Council of State, which awarded the medal. A written commendation said Medina had given "the only possible answer... to the miserable traitor." The "traitor" referred to Florentino Azpilaga, a veteran Cuban intelligence officer who defected to the West while in Czechoslovakia in June 1987 and went to the United States. Medina said last month that Azpilaga tried "to induce or force" him to defect. The Cuban government alleges that Azpilaga works for the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

N. Ireland officer killed

BELFAST (R) — A leading member of Northern Ireland's biggest Protestant paramilitary organisation was shot dead along with one other man in a bar-room attack in east Belfast Saturday night, police said Sunday. Gunmen wearing blue overalls and balaclava hats burst into the bar and ordered customers to lie on the floor before shooting Jimmy Craig, a senior member of the Ulster Defence Association (UDA), and another man named as George Rainey. Four others were injured in the attack. It was not clear if the shooting was the result of internal feuding among Protestant paramilitary groups or a reprisal by Catholic nationalist guerrillas for an attack by Protestant gunmen on a bar in May, when three Catholics were killed.

Nigerian ship seized for cargo

NAIROBI (AP) — A judge has ordered the arrest of a Nigerian cargo ship at the Kenyan port of Mombasa after alleged disappearance of asphalt worth 6.6 million shillings (\$3.5 million) it was transporting from Pakistan, the Sunday Nation newspaper reported. The 7,207-ton River Osse, belonging to state-owned Nigerian national shipping line, docked in Mombasa Sept. 20 carrying 19,929 drums of asphalt instead of the 30,924 drums Caltex Oil (Kenya) Limited claims were loaded at the Pakistan port of Karachi.

Heysel riot trial begins

BRUSSELS (R) — Twenty-six British soccer fans go on trial Monday for the unlawful killing of 39 people, mostly Italians, in riots at the Brussels Heysel Stadium.

The Britons are charged with manslaughter "by premeditated assault and battery" arising from the disaster May 29, 1985, when fans rampaged across the pitch before a European Cup final and toppled a wall on to the crowd.

The tragedy, beamed by television to shocked audiences around the world, marked a new low in soccer hooliganism and led to calls throughout Europe for stiffer penalties to combat it.

The Britons, mostly in their 20s and supporters of the English club Liverpool which met Italy's Juventus that night, could be jailed for 10 years if convicted.

Appearing with them will be three Belgians — two local police officers and Albert Roosens, general secretary of Belgium's football union.

The three Belgians face a lesser charge of unlawful killing through negligence by failing to

provide adequate security at the Heysel ground.

Two senior European Football Association officials and the mayor of Brussels and his deputy — as representatives of the stadium's owners — have also been cited in a civil suit brought by about 100 Italian victims and their families which will be judged by the same court.

A lawyer for the Italians said the court would have to consider a demand for financial compensation from the victims and their dependents. He would not disclose the amount that would be sought.

Thirty-four Italians, four Belgians and one Briton died of suffocation in the disaster and scores were injured.

English soccer teams were banned from playing in Europe.

The 26 Britons were identified months after the tragedy from video and television recording of the match and 25 of them were later extradited to Belgium.

After several months in jail, they were allowed to return home until their trial.

Bush, Dukakis urge voters to ignore polls

BOSTON (R) — A confident George Bush and a determined Michael Dukakis are both urging supporters to ignore opinion polls showing the Republican candidate extending his lead in the U.S. presidential election.

For opposite reasons, Dukakis, the Democratic governor of Massachusetts, and Bush, the Republican vice-president, both sought to play down the polling conducted after their second and last presidential debate Thursday.

"I've been in politics too long to let over-confidence creep in during the final days of the campaign," Bush told reporters in California Saturday.

"You're talking to a guy, when the polls were going the other way, who said it wasn't over," Bush said. "Watch how hard we work."

Dukakis, who campaigned in vote-rich California and Texas Saturday before returning to Boston, also dismissed the polls that showed him losing to Bush in the

final debate and falling further behind in the race for the White House.

During a chat with reporters travelling on his campaign plane, Dukakis insisted, "this is a very tight race."

"I can't remember a race this tight at this point in time," he said. "We've been in almost a dead heat now for the last couple of weeks."

A new Los Angeles Times national poll found Bush has extended his lead over Dukakis by 52 per cent to 42 per cent. The Republican had held a lead of 47 to 40 before the debate.

In San Antonio, Texas, Dukakis alternated his speech between English and Spanish in asking an outdoor rally of some 1,500 people to press the fight.

"Little by little, step by step... together we will win," Dukakis said, his voice hoarse from speaking at a crowded schedule of campaign stops.

Rightists favour changes in Chile

SANTIAGO (R) — Former right-wing allies of military ruler General Augusto Pinochet said Saturday they were willing to consider opposition demands for constitutional changes aimed at speeding Chile's return to democracy.

"The demands are important and must be considered," said former Senator Francisco Bulnes, a leader of the country's top right-wing party, National Renovation.

Bulnes and Patricia Phillips, another former Pinochet supporter, said changes were called for in the constitution which allows the 72-year-old Pinochet to remain in power another 17 months following his defeat in an Oct. 5

presidential plebiscite.

They did not specify what changes they favoured, but said their parties were studying reform proposals.

A coalition of 16 opposition parties appealed directly to the armed forces Friday to sideset Pinochet and negotiate "urgent changes" in the constitution to allow early elections.

The coalition, headed by Christian Democrat Patricio Ayala, said Pinochet was an "obstacle" to dialogue and urged government supporters to take part in negotiations aimed at holding free elections at the shortest possible notice.

They also want changes in constitutional norms that allow

Pinochet to continue as armed forces chief until at least 1993.

Pinochet was defeated by 55 to 43 per cent in the yes-or-no vote on extending his 15-year rule.

Under the constitution, drafted by the military in 1980 and considered undemocratic by the opposition, Pinochet can remain in power until March 11, but he must call competitive presidential and congressional elections Dec. 14, 1989.

In the first clear indication that the armed forces might agree to negotiations with the opposition, air force commander General Fernando Matthei told reporters Friday he was prepared to discuss some of their demands.

King's killer writing book

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP) — James Earl Ray, convicted of assassinating Martin Luther King Jr., is writing a book saying the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) was responsible for the slaying, and Ray's wife says their marriage is breaking up because it.

Anne Sandhu Ray said her husband has informed her that she would not get any profits from the planned book. Mrs. Ray, who spoke on the couple's 10th anniversary Thursday, said she plans to seek divorce. "He agreed that that might be the best thing for me to do," Mrs. Ray said. Ray, 60, was sentenced to 99 years in prison in 1969 when he pleaded guilty to shooting the civil rights leader the year before in Memphis. Now in Brushy Mountain State Prison in east Tennessee, Ray has since repeatedly denied his guilt and sought a new trial. Mrs. Ray, 42, said Thursday she still believes her husband is innocent.

County upstages reluctant taxpayer

GEORGETOWN, Colorado (AP) — When Kenny Walters used 3,000 one-dollar bills to pay the county taxes on his tool-rental business, he thought his conscience was clear and the matter was closed. But County Treasurer Geraldine Thompson may have upstaged Walters. She returned his change of \$110 mostly in small coins. "I guess he was just trying to make a statement," said Thompson. "I just gave him all the change I could dish out. I mean, turnout is fair play." Walters said he enjoyed Thompson's response to his "silent protest." He said he was trying to make a point when he paid his \$2,890 in taxes in person with an old gunpowder crate full of one-dollar bills. "I don't mind paying my property taxes," said Walters. "But sometimes they (county officials) have a tendency not to realize how much money they're taking from people."

Dutch army gears up for varying ethnic tastes

By Galina Vromen
Reuter

THE HAGUE — When Dutch troops march off to training exercises next year, they will have a choice of regular, curried or porkless battle rations.

This is just one way the Dutch army is trying to adapt to an increasing influx of Muslim and Hindu conscripts swelling its ranks from the Netherlands' ethnic minority communities.

The military estimates that between five and eight per cent of the Dutch standing army will be Muslim or Hindu by 1995, up from about half a per cent now. In actual number, Hindus and Muslims are expected to increase from about 200 new recruits a year now to 5,000 a year in less than a decade.

Deputy Defence Minister Jan van Houwelingen last month announced a programme to ensure that minorities get a fair chance in the army, which has a long tradition of trying to make life as easy on soldiers as possible without sacrificing quality. The military has launched a drive to educate officers about minority groups.

Recruits are given 13.90 guilders (\$7) a day to buy their own food if it cannot be provided for them in their barracks.

Moreover, officers are being taught how to be sensitive to the religious and cultural background of their troops.

"Commanders must learn that there is a difference, because that is the reality," said Sergeant Major Harold Rack, an army social worker who immigrated to the Netherlands from Surinam.

Muslims and Hindus are likely to be much more humiliated than the average Dutch soldier by being reprimanded in public because of their culture's high value on keeping face, he said.

"If a soldier must be reprimanded, we suggest doing it in private," said Rack.

Regulations which had long given Jews in the army their day of rest Saturdays were expanded in 1981 with new provisions to allow Muslims to mark their day of rest Fridays.

But the army has its limits. A Muslim soldier who went absent without leave earlier this year to observe Ramadan, a month-long holiday of dawn-

to-dusk fasting, was court-martialed and received a three-week suspended sentence.

He appealed the decision on grounds the army had rejected his offer to serve an extra month in exchange for time off for Ramadan. But the appeal court upheld the sentence and fined him 500 guilders (\$250) in addition.

The recruits' union VVDM, which guards the rights of Dutch soldiers, and some Muslim and Hindu servicemen complain the army could be doing much more for them.

They note that while the military has chaplains representing four groups — Protestants, Catholics, Orthodox Jews and liberal Jews — it has no religious leader for Muslims or Hindus.

"We've been pressing for religious representatives for Muslims and Hindus for six years. Two government commissions have concluded that it is a good idea and we're still waiting," said Peter Paul